(c) whether Government propose to conduct a survey on this route, if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal was received in September, 2000.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Keeping in view the very large shelf of pending sanctioned New Line projects and severe constraint of resources, it is not possible to consider construction of the said line for the present. As such, survey has not been considered necessary at this stage.

Manual maintenance of rail track

3914. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the Railway Track are still being manually maintained; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government for maintaining the tracks with machines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) About 50% of track is maintained manually.

(b) Indian Railways has planned progressive mechanization of track maintenance depending on availability of funds.

Life of pads for rail tracks

3915. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, as per International standards, the pads for rail tracks should have a life of atleast 15 years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that rubber pads of Indian

Railways are required to be replaced every 18 months to two years; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to improve the rail track?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVUAY SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir,

(c) Research Design Standard Organisation (RDSO) is conducting trails with improved rubber pads to get longer life.

Report on Gaisal rail accident

3916. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received the inquiry report on the rail accident which had taken place on 2nd August, 1999 near Gaisal station;

(b) if so, when the said report has been received and the details of factors found responsible for the said accident, on the basis of the report; and

(c) whether Government have taken any action so far, on the basis of the report; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVUAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Inquiry Commission headed by Shri Justice G. N. Ray, retired Judge of Supreme Court of India, was appointed to inquire into the accident at Gaisal station of Katihar division on North East Frontier Railway has submitted its report on 28.1.2001. As per findings of the Commission the accident occurred due to "Failure of Railway Staff'.

(c) Action against the staff & officers, as recommended by the Commission are being initiated as per Discipline and Appeal Rules. The Commission has made a total of 21 recommendations of which 18 have been accepted.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.